

# PER

**PERSPICACIOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *perspicacius*.] Quickness of sight.  
**PERSPICACITY**. *n. f.* [from *perspicacitas*, Fr.] Quickness of sight.  
 He that laid the foundations of the earth cannot be excluded the fecrecy of the mountains; nor can there any thing escape the *perspicacity* of those eyes, which were before light, and in whose optics there is no opacity. *Brown.*  
**PERSPICIENCE**. *n. f.* [from *perspicience*, Lat.] The act of looking sharply. *Diët.*  
**PERSPICILL**. *n. f.* [from *perspicillum*, Lat.] A glass through which things are viewed; an optick glass.  
 Let truth be  
 Ne'er so far distant, yet chronology,  
 Sharp-sighted as the eagle's eye, that can  
 Out-stare the broad-beam'd day's meridian,  
 Will have a *perspicill* to find her out,  
 And through the night of error and dark doubt,  
 Discern the dawn of truth's eternal ray,  
 As when the rosy morn buds into day. *Crashaw.*  
 The *perspicill*, as well as the needle, hath enlarged the habitable world. *Glanvill's Sceps.*

**PERSPICUITY**. *n. f.* [from *perspicuitas*, Fr. from *perspicuus*.]  
 1. Clearness to the mind; easiness to be understood; freedom from obscurity or ambiguity.  
 The verses containing precepts, have not so much need of ornament as of *perspicuity*. *Dryden.*  
*Perspicuity* consists in the using of proper terms for the thoughts, which a man would have pass from his own mind into that of another's. *Locke's Thoughts on Reading.*  
 2. Transparency; translucency; diaphaneity.  
 As for diaphaneity and *perspicuity* it enjoyeth that most eminently, as having its earthy and salinous parts so exactly resolved, that its body is left imporous. *Brown.*

**PERSPICUOUS**. *adj.* [from *perspicuus*, Latin.]  
 1. Transparent; clear; such as may be seen through; diaphanous; translucent; not opaque.  
 As contrary causes produce the like effects, so even the same proceed from black and white; for the clear and *perspicuous* body effecteth white, and that white a black. *Peacham.*  
 2. Clear to the understanding; not obscure; not ambiguous.  
 The purpose is *perspicuous* even as subsistence, *Shakefp.*  
 Whole grossness little characters sum up.  
 All this is so *perspicuous*, so undeniable, that I need not be over industrious in the proof of it. *Sprat's Sermons.*

**PERSPICUOUSLY**. *adv.* [from *perspicuus*.] Clearly; not obscurely.  
 The case is no sooner made than resolved; if it be made not unwrapped, but plainly and *perspicuously*. *Bacon.*  
**PERSPICUOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *perspicuus*.] Clearness; freedom from obscurity.  
**PERSPIRABLE**. *adj.* [from *perspire*.]  
 1. Such as may be emitted by the cuticular pores.  
 That this attraction is performed by effluvia, is plain and granted by most; for electricks will not commonly attract, unless they attract or become *perspirable*. *Brown.*  
 In an animal under a course of hard labour, aliment too vaporous or *perspirable* will subject it to too strong a perspiration, debility and sudden death. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*  
 2. Perspiring; emitting perspiration. Not proper.  
 Hair cometh not upon the palms of the hands or soles of the feet, which are parts more *perspirable*: and children are not hairy, for that their skins are most *perspirable*. *Bacon.*

**PERSPIRATION**. *n. f.* [from *perspire*.] Excretion by the cuticular pores.  
 Insensible *perspiration* is the last and most perfect action of animal digestion. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*  
**PERSPIRATIVE**. *adj.* [from *perspire*.] Performing the act of perspiration.  
**TO PERSPIRE**. *v. n.* [from *perspire*, Lat.]  
 1. To perform excretion by the cuticular pores  
 2. To be excreted by the skin.  
 Water, milk, whey taken without much exercise, so as to make them *perspire*, relax the belly. *Arbuthnot.*  
**TO PERSTRINGE**. *v. a.* [from *perstringere*, Lat.] To graze upon; to glance upon. *Diët.*  
**PERSUADABLE**. *adj.* [from *persuade*.] Such as may be persuaded.  
**TO PERSUADE**. *v. a.* [from *persuadeo*, Lat. *persuader*, Fr.]  
 1. To bring to any particular opinion.  
 Let every man be fully *persuaded* in his own mind. *Romans.*  
 We are *persuaded* better things of you, and things that accompany salvation. *Hebrews vi. 9.*  
 Joy over them that are *persuaded* to salvation. *2 Esdras vii.*  
 Let a man be ever so well *persuaded* of the advantages of virtue, yet, till he hungers and thirsts after righteousness, his will will not be determined to any action in pursuit of this consoled great good. *Locke.*  
 Men should seriously *persuade* themselves, that they have here no abiding place, but are only in their passage to the heavenly Jerusalem. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

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2. To influence by argument or expostulation. *Persuasion* seems rather applicable to the passions, and *argument* to the reason; but this is not always observed.  
 Philoclea's beauty not only *persuaded*, but so *persuaded* as all hearts must yield: Pamela's beauty used violence, and such as no heart could resist. *Sidney.*  
 They that were with Simon, being led with covetousness, were *persuaded* for money. *2 Mac. x. 20.*  
 To sit cross-leg'd, or with our fingers pectinated, is accounted bad, and friends will *persuade* us from it. *Brown.*  
 I should be glad, if I could *persuade* him to write such another critick on any thing of mine; for when he condemns any of my poems, he makes the world have a better opinion of them. *Dryden.*

3. To inculcate by argument or expostulation.  
 To children, afraid of vain images, we *persuade* confidence by making them handle and look nearer such things. *Taylor.*  
 4. To treat by persuasion. A mode of speech not in use.  
 Twenty merchants have all *persuaded* with him;  
 But none can drive him from the envious plea  
 Of forfeiture. *Shakefp.*

**PERSUADE**. *n. f.* [from *persuadeo*.] One who influences by persuasion; an importunate adviser.  
 The earl, speaking in that imperious language wherein the king had written, did not irritate the people, but make them conceive by the haughtiness of delivery of the king's errand, that himself was the author or principal *persuader* of that counsel. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

He soon is mov'd  
 By such *persuaders* as are held upright. *Daniel's Civil War.*  
 Hunger and thirst at once,  
 Pow'rful *persuaders*! quicken'd at the scent  
 Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me so keen. *Milton.*

**PERSUASIBLE**. *adj.* [from *persuadibilis*, Lat. *persuadibile*, Fr. from *persuadeo*, Latin.] To be influenced by persuasion.  
 It makes us apprehend our own interest in that obedience, makes us tractable and *persuadible*, contrary to that brutish stubbornness of the horse and mule, which the Psalmist reproaches. *Government of the Tongue.*  
**PERSUASIBLENESS**. *n. f.* [from *persuadibile*.] The quality of being flexible by persuasion.  
**PERSUASION**. *n. f.* [from *persuasio*, Fr. from *persuadeo*, Lat.]

1. The act of persuading; the act of influencing by expostulation; the act of gaining or attempting the passions.  
 It's prove thy fortune, Polydore, to conquer,  
 For thou hast all the arts of fine *persuasion*,  
 Trust me, and let me know thy love's success. *Orwig.*  
 2. The state of being persuaded; opinion.  
 The most certain token of evident goodness is, if the general *persuasion* of all men does to account it. *Hester.*  
 You are a great deal abus'd in too bold a *persuasion*. *Shakefp.*

When we have no other certainty of being in the right, but our own *persuasions* that we are so; this may often be but making one error the gage for another. *Gov. of the Tongue.*  
 The obedient and the men of practice shall ride upon those clouds, and triumph over their present imperfections; till *persuasion* pass into knowledge, and knowledge advance into assurance, and all come at length to be completed in the beatific vision. *South's Sermons.*

**PERSUASIVE**. *adj.* [from *persuadere*, Fr. from *persuadeo*.] Having the power of persuading; having influence on the passions.  
 In prayer, we do not so much respect what precepts are delivereth, touching the method of *persuasive* utterance in the presence of great men, as what doth most avail to our own edification in piety and godly zeal. *Hester.*  
 Let Martius resume his farther discourse, as well for the *persuasive* as for the consult, touching the means that may conduce unto the enterprize. *Bacon.*  
 Notwithstanding the weight and fineness of the arguments to persuade, and the light of man's intellect to meet this *persuasive* evidence with a suitable assent, no assent followed, nor were men thereby actually persuaded. *South's Sermons.*

**PERSUASIVENESS**. *n. f.* [from *persuasive*.] Influence on the passions.  
 An opinion of the successfulness of the work being as necessary to found a purpose of undertaking it, as either the authority of commands, or the *persuasiveness* of promises, or pungency of menaces can be. *Hammond's Fundamental.*  
**PERSUASORY**. *adj.* [from *persuasivus*, Lat. from *persuadeo*.] Having the power to persuade.  
 Neither is this *persuasory*. *Brown.*

# PER

**PERT**. *adj.* [from *pert*, Welsh; *pert*, Dutch; *apert*, French.]

1. Lively; brisk; smart.  
 Awake the *pert* and nimble spirit of mirth;  
 Turn melancholy forth to funerals. *Shakefp.*  
 On the tawny sands and shelves,  
 Trip the *pert* fairies and the dapper elves. *Milton.*  
 2. Saucy; petulant; with bold and garrulous loquacity.  
 All servants might challenge the same liberty, and grow *pert* upon their masters; and when this fauciness became universal, what less mischief could be expected than an old Seythian rebellion? *Collier on Pride.*  
 A lady bids me in a very *pert* manner mind my own affairs, and not pretend to meddle with their linnen. *Addison.*

Scarce list'ned to their idle chat,  
 Further than sometimes by a frown,  
 When they grew *pert*, to pull them down. *Swift.*  
**TO PERTAIN**. *v. n.* [from *pertinere*, Lat.] To belong; to relate.  
 As men hate those that affect that honour by ambition, which *pertaineth* not to them, so are they much more odious, who through fear betray the glory which they have. *Hayward.*

A chevron or rafter of an house, a very honourable bearing, is never seen in the coat of a king, because it *pertaineth* to a mechanical profession. *Peacham.*  
**PERTINERBATION**. *n. f.* [from *per* and *terebatio*, Lat.] The act of boring through. *Ainsworth.*

**PERTINACIOUS**. *adj.* [from *pertinax*.]  
 1. Obstinate; stubborn; perverely resolute.  
 One of the dissenters appeared to Dr. Sanderson to be so bold, so troublesome and illogical in the dispute, as forced him to say, that he had never met with a man of more *pertinacious* confidence and less abilities. *Walton.*  
 2. Resolute; constant; steady.

Diligence is a steady, constant and *pertinacious* study, that naturally leads the soul into the knowledge of that, which at first seemed locked up from it. *South's Sermons.*  
**PERTINACIOUSLY**. *adv.* [from *pertinaciously*.] Obstinate; stubbornly.

They deny that freedom to me, which they *pertinaciously* challenge to themselves. *King Charles.*  
 Metals *pertinaciously* resist all transmutation; and though one would think they were turned into a different substance, yet they do but as it were lurk under a vizard. *Ray.*  
 Others have sought to ease themselves of all the evil of affliction by disputing subtilly against it, and *pertinaciously* maintaining, that afflictions are no real evils, but only in imagination. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

**PERTINACITY**. *n. f.* [from *pertinacia*, Lat. from *pertinax*.]  
**PERTINACIOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *pertinacia*.]

1. Obstinate; stubbornness.  
 In this reply, was included a very gross mistake, and if with *pertinacity* maintained, a capital error. *Brown.*  
 2. Resolution; constancy.  
**PERTINACY**. *n. f.* [from *pertinax*.] Perseverance; pertinency.

1. Obstinate; stubbornness; pertinency.  
 Their *pertinacy* is such, that when you drive them out of one form, they assume another. *Duppa.*  
 It holds forth the *pertinacy* of ill fortune, in pursuing people into their graves. *L'Estrange.*

2. Resolution; steadiness; constancy.  
 St. Gorgonia prayed with passion and *pertinacy*, till she obtained relief. *Taylor.*

They with a *pertinacy* unmatched,  
 For new recruits of danger watch'd. *Hudibras.*

**PERTINENCE**. *n. f.* [from *pertinere*, Lat.] Justness of relation.  
**PERTINENCY**. *n. f.* [from *pertinencia*, Lat.] Propriety to the purpose; appositeness.

I have shewn the fitness and *pertinency* of the apostle's discourse to the persons he addressed to, whereby it appeareth that he was no babbler, and did not talk at random. *Bentley.*  
**PERTINENT**. *adj.* [from *pertinens*, Lat. *pertinent*, Fr.]  
 1. Related to the matter in hand; just to the purpose; not useless to the end proposed; apposite; not foreign from the thing intended.  
 My caution was more *pertinent*  
 Than the rebuke you give it. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*  
 I set down, out of experience in business, and conversation in books, what I thought *pertinent* to this business. *Bacon.*  
 Here I shall seem a little to digress, but you will by and by find it *pertinent*. *Bacon.*  
 If he could find *pertinent* treatises of it in books, that would reach all the particulars of a man's behaviour; his own ill-furnished example would spoil all. *Locke.*

2. Relating; regarding; concerning. In this sense the word now used is *pertaining*.  
 Men shall have just cause, when any thing *pertinent* unto faith and religion is doubted of, the more willingly to incline their minds towards that which the sentence of so grave, wife and learned in that faculty shall judge most found. *Hooker.*

**PERTINENTLY**. *adv.* [from *pertinent*.] Appositely; to the purpose.

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Be modest and reserved in the presence of thy betters, speaking little, answering *pertinently*, not interposing without leave of reason. *Taylor's Rule of Living Holy.*

**PERTINENTNESS**. *n. f.* [from *pertinent*.] Appositeness. *Diët.*  
**PERTINENT**. *adj.* [from *pertinent*, Lat.] Reaching to; touching. *Diët.*

**PERTLY**. *adv.* [from *pert*.]  
 1. Briskly; smartly.  
 I find no other difference betwixt the common town-wits and the downright country fools, than that the first are *pertly* in the wrong, with a little more gaiety; and the last neither in the right nor the wrong. *Pope.*

2. Saucily; petulantly.  
 Yonder walls, that *pertly* front your town,  
 Yond towers, whose wanton tops do bue the clouds,  
 Must kiss their own feet. *Shakefp.*

When you *pertly* raise your snout,  
 Fleer, and gibe, and laugh, and flout;  
 This, among Hibernian allies,  
 For sheer wit, and humour passes. *Swift.*

**PERTNESS**. *n. f.* [from *pert*.]  
 1. Brisk folly; sauciness; petulance.  
 Dulness delighted ey'd the lively dunce,  
 Remembering the herself was *peritess* once. *Dunciad.*

2. Petty liveliness; spriteliness without force, dignity or solidity.  
 There is in Shaftsbury's works a lively *peritess* and a parade of literature; but it is hard that we should be bound to admire the reveries. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

**PERTINENT**. *adj.* [from *pertinent*, Lat.] Passing over. *Diët.*  
**TO PERTURB**. *v. a.* [from *perturbo*, Latin.]

**TO PERTURBATE**. *v. a.* [from *perturbare*, Latin.]  
 1. To disquiet; to disturb; to deprive of tranquility.  
 Rest, rest, *perturbed* spirit. *Shakefp.*  
 His wailing flesh with anguish burns,  
 And his *perturbed* soul within him mourns. *Sandys.*

2. To disorder; to confuse; to put out of regularity.  
 They are content to suffer the penalties annexed, rather than *perturb* the publick peace. *King Charles.*  
 The intervent and brutal faculties controul'd the suggestions of truth; pleasure and profit overwaying the instructions of honesty, and sensuality *perturbing* the reasonable commands of virtue. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

The accession or secession of bodies from the earth's surface *perturb* not the equilibration of either hemisphere. *Brown.*  
**PERTURBATION**. *n. f.* [from *perturbatio*, Lat. *perturbation*, Fr.]

1. Disquiet of mind; deprivation of tranquillity.  
 Love was not in their looks, either to God,  
 Nor to each other; but apparent guilt,  
 And shame, and *perturbation*, and despair. *Milton.*  
 The foul as it is more immediately and strongly affected by this part, so doth it manifest all its passions and *perturbations* by it. *Ray on the Creation.*

2. Restlessness of passions.  
 Natures, that have much heat, and great and violent desires and *perturbations*, are not ripe for action, till they have passed the meridian of their years. *Bacon's Essays.*

3. Disturbance; disorder; confusion; commotion.  
 Although the long diffentions of the two houses had had lucid intervals, yet they did ever hang over the kingdom, ready to break forth into new *perturbations* and calamities. *Bacon.*

4. Cause of disquiet.  
 O polid'd *perturbation*! golden care!  
 That keep'st the ports of slumber open wide  
 To many a watchful night: sleep with it now,  
 Yet not so found, and half so deeply sweet,  
 As he, whose brow with homely biggen bound,  
 Sleeps out the watch of night. *Shakefp. Henry IV.*

5. Commotion of passions.  
 Restore yourselves unto your temper, fathers;  
 And, without *perturbation*, hear me speak. *Ben. Johnson.*

**PERTURBATION**. *n. f.* [from *perturbatio*, Lat. *perturbation*, Fr.]

1. Raiser of commotions.  
**PERTURSED**. *adj.* [from *pertusus*, Lat.] Bored; punched; pierced with holes. *Diët.*

**PERTUSION**. *n. f.* [from *pertusio*, Latin.]

1. The act of piercing or punching.  
 The manner of opening a vein in Hippocrates's time, was by stabbing or *pertusion*, as it is performed in horses. *Arbuth.*

2. Hole made by punching or piercing.  
 An empty pot without earth in it, may be put over a fruit the better, if some few *pertusions* be made in the spot. *Bacon.*

**TO PERVADE**. *v. a.* [from *pervado*, Lat.]

1. To pass through an aperture; to permeate.  
 The labour'd chyle *pervades* the pores  
 In all the arterial perforated shores. *Blackmore.*

Paper dipped in water or oil, the oculus mundi stone steeped in water, linen-cloth oiled or varnished, and many other substances soaked in such liquors as will intimately *pervade* their little pores, become by that means more transparent than otherwise. *Newton's Opticks.*